



Photo by Megan Cambridge

Site Facts

Site Name:
Basic Vegetable Products

Location:
Vacaville, CA

Site Size:
3.5 affected acres

Historical Uses:
Food products processing;
abandoned rail line

Length of Cleanup:
12 months

Contaminants of Concern:
Lead

Deed Restriction:
none

Redeveloped Use:
Skating/Recreation Center



State of
California



Department of Toxic
Substances Control

Brownfield Revitalization

Success Story, July 2004

Basic Vegetable Products Solano County

Basic Vegetable Products processed onions and garlic on a 29-acre site in Vacaville. The company contributed to California's agricultural industry for more than fifty years before closing in 1986.

The property was unused for nearly a decade until 1986 when the Redevelopment Agency of Vacaville wanted to create a sports and recreation center and buildings for commercial and industrial use at the site. Because the business did not use hazardous substances in its operations, there was little thought that the ground might be contaminated. However, redevelopment can be full of surprises. An environmental assessment discovered high levels of lead on a 3.5-acre portion of the property.

This property is an example of past practices resulting in present problems. Historic steel production generated huge amounts of a gravel-like waste product called "slag" that accumulated in vast heaps around the steel manufacturing facility. Attempts to reuse this material included using it as fill material for construction projects. Unfortunately, slag was later discovered to contain residual metals including lead that can contaminate surrounding soil. Now the residues of steel production are found in many unlikely places. At the Basic Vegetable Products site, slag formed the base for an abandoned rail line.

The Redevelopment Agency of Vacaville entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in 1995 to oversee cleanup of the contaminated soil. DTSC approved a Removal Action Workplan that called for removing approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil. The cleanup was completed in June 1996 and the lead concentration is now below residential standards of 210 parts per million.

A one-story 90,000 square foot building now covers most of the previously contaminated area. Opened in 1998, Vacaville Skating Center serves more than fifteen thousand people each month. Cleanup and development on that site served as a catalyst for development in the area. The Skating Center is now surrounded by other new business and commercial development. Through the Voluntary Cleanup Program, DTSC was able to help the city of Vacaville transform this brownfield into a productive asset to the city.



Contaminated Property



Photo by Larry Landes

15,000 people visit
each month.